



SUMMARY

Indiana's Proposed Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (REPA)

Updated Dec. 4, 2009.

- **Requires Emphasis on Content-Knowledge.** Proposed changes would revise the licensing requirements to emphasize teachers' content knowledge.
 - **Elementary teachers** (Pre-K to 6) must earn a baccalaureate degree consisting of an education major with a content-area minor OR a content-area major with an education minor.
 - **Secondary teachers** (grades 5 to 12) must receive a **baccalaureate** degree consisting of any applicable content-area major — as well as a minor in education.
- **Opens Door to Non-Traditional Administrators.** Proposed changes would allow school boards to hire administrators outside of the traditional education system.
 - A school's governing body may apply to the Professional Standards Board for a temporary administrative license for a nontraditional superintendent for a period of time determined by the school's governing body.
 - If granted, these temporary administrator licenses would only be valid within the employing school district.
- **Requires Testing of Every New Teacher Before Entering the Classroom.** Proposed changes would require all teaching candidates to pass certain tests to demonstrate competence in content-area knowledge and pedagogy (including the PRAXIS II exams).
 - PRAXIS I tests would no longer be required for licensure. Instead, teaching applicants would be required to demonstrate basic skills before being admitted to schools of education.
- **Changes Novice-Teacher Programs.** Proposed changes would eliminate portfolio and mentor program for new teachers. Mentor programs would become a local option. Related changes would:
 - Create a simplified Beginning Teacher Residency Program, in which a building-level administrator will be responsible for assessing a new teacher's effectiveness and developing a plan for professional improvement.
 - Make NCATE measurement optional for school-of-education accreditation.
- **Allows Current Teachers to use In-service Credits for License Renewal.** Proposed changes would make tuition-based course requirements for teachers to renew their licenses optional as verified by the building level administrator. Educators would have the option to use in-service credits and professional development programs verified by a building-level administrator for renewal. This could save teachers as much as \$1,400 every five years in tuition costs.
 - Only activities and courses directly related to student achievement will count toward renewal.

- **Simplifies Licensing Process for Out-of-State Teachers & Career Changers.** Proposed changes would reduce licensing barriers for out-of-state teachers and other highly knowledgeable adults looking to enter the teaching profession. Related changes:
 - **Out-of-State Candidates:** Eliminates transcript analysis by higher education institutions. Requires these applicants to have three years of expertise in good standing to receive a proficient practitioner license. Otherwise, they will receive an initial practitioner license.
 - **Changing Professions:** A teaching candidate with a baccalaureate degree may obtain an Education minor and pass a content-knowledge test for licensure.
- **Reduces Teacher Licensing Categories.** Proposed changes would reduce the five school settings to three settings for licensure: Pre-K to 6, 5 to 12 and Pre-K to 12.
 - Eliminate outdated content areas. Example: bilingual/bicultural education (duplication).
 - Eliminate “reciprocal” license category.
- **Eases Restrictions on License Suspensions/Revocations.** Proposed changes would allow IDOE to accept license surrenders for suspensions/revocations. This allows the Department to receive surrenders from license-holders who are facing criminal charges and allows the Department to provide a quicker response for license revocations.

When and how will educators be subject to these changes?

- New rules would go into effect July 31, 2010.
- Current teachers will convert their licenses to coincide with these new rules upon renewal. The only exception will be for a LIFE license issued under a prior licensing system.
- New rules will be grandfathered so that students in schools of education graduating prior to 2011 will not be affected by licensing changes.